

THE SPECTRE OF INGLETON; OR THE FOREST MYSTERY.

By Christine R. Carpenter.

George uttered a low groan, and turned his face to his hand; then, raising it, he enveloped himself in his shrouding mantle, and, wringing the lawyer's hand, disappeared through the door, and was lost in the darkness of the night.

"Fine fellow, that," mused Brown, after George had gone. "Let me see; an hour hence I must be home, to see about matters there."

When Mrs. Ramsell left Julia's room, the latter lay wearily and exhausted for a few moments, and then, exhausted, she heard the clock strike one.

"What a day! how weary time passes, and convulsive palpit my heart. Can it be dead already? O God! must I meet that husband who so early went to his tomb—the victim of an assassin—who did I think me so false? O George, if you knew how I report of that! There is a tenderness in me at the remembrance of your love, which tells me we might have been happy, had I not cherished revenge so dearly."

"What has life been? One of misery, passion and war! how does it end? O husband, no child to arrange my pillow, no words of love to sooth my passage to the grave; unloving, unloving, I must tell the weary way alone. The only one I might have bound to me by ties which even death has no power to sever; gone, and I am my own victim. O George, would to God I could have forgiveness from your lips, now so cold in the lowly tomb!"

"God bless you, Julia, for those repentant words!" said a deep, thrilling, impassioned voice, and, gazing deeply, she saw behind the tall clocked figure, standing near the door.

"As God forgives you, so I do!"

The garment fell off, and she beheld George Crawshaw, who had entered the room unperceived, unobserved.

"A third time he has risen from his grave to haunt me," groaned the wretched woman, covering her eyes to keep out what she deemed the shade of her dead husband. "But no; it was George who spoke."

"Julia, to me a mortal touch rested upon her head, and drew it from her face, and with his deep, dark eyes looking down into hers, was he, she thought, lying cold in the ground; there was fascination in his glance, and she did not move until he again spoke.

"'Tis no shade you see, but your husband, living, breathing, healthy, but sorrowing to see you thus."

"O God, do not cheat me with this delusion! Who are you, that thus speak?"

"Believe me, Julia, I am he you thought murdered. The assassin struck at the wrong head, and missed his victim. By a strange coincidence he strangely resembled each other, thus occurred the mistake."

A moment more, and she reclined in his arms, clasped his heart, he laid upon his bosom, while convulsive sobs broke from her lips.

"O Julia," and tears rained from the strong man's eyes, as he pressed his lips to the brow, so marble like, so cold, in strange contrast to the red flush upon her sunken cheeks.

"Julia, to find you thus, to have you own that you cherished my memory with regret for the past, is worth all the love I have suffered! O God, I thank thee for this hour."

He smothered back the heavy looks from her forehead, and endeavored to soothe her; at length she became quiet, and to her eager questioning, he informed her of his miraculous escape, of his belief at the time that she was false to him, and, necessary to the murder, and all the subsequent incidents.

And in return, Julia told him of her early days, and, lastly, of her visit to the prison, when Bradford confessed the hat poisoned her.

"And is it true?"

"Too true, too true, I have been falling for a long time, and I know I ought to have saved myself! Die, when I am happy near your heart, in your arms, knowing I am forgiven, could be blessed in your love hereafter, but perhaps it is better so! but oh to think he gloots over his triumph!"

"Not long, dear, I have proofs which will convict him of murder, and bring him to punishment, but 'tis hard to lose you at this moment, when we are both lovers. Would I could save you!"

"'Tis impossible, but oh the pleasure to know you will be near me, when I close my eyes on earth. God will see with you George when I am gone! Was I not you who has shared visited me, and when I imagined a hideous of the departed."

"It was, and also I who so followed the village Bradford."

She fell back exhausted, and a deathly pallor spread over her face, he caught up the essence that stood near upon the rosewood stand, and bathed her brow, she recovered and smiled strangely sweet, and mournful upon him. A foot step was heard outside, and hurriedly whispering that it might be one of the slaves, he laid her back upon the pillow, and, catching up his cloak, concealed himself in a closet in the room.

Scarcely had he done so, when the door opened, and Harry Crawford, armed with the village physician.

"Is useless," said Julia, as the latter advanced to question her concerning her illness. "No human power can save me."

A few moments he gazed upon her form, unstruck, then, he turned his head, and, dimly perceiving a stimulus to revive her strength, took his departure, she was beyond all remedy, as he had said. When he had left the room, George Crawshaw stepped from his hiding place, and, kneeling, he prayed.

"We are at George?" he well.

"Has any one seen you?" he simply answered, pointing to the door.

"Has any one seen you?" he asked Harry.

"No."

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

SIXTY FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

NEW YORK FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the New York Fire Department, held at Fire Department Building, New York, on the 1st of December, 1899.

Present: David Milburn, President, W. A. Wood, Vice President, W. A. Wood, Secretary, John S. Wood, Treasurer, and two hundred and three representatives.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Board were read and approved.

The Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Board to report on the petition of the Fire Department, presented a report, which was read and approved.

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The Agents of the Foreign Fire Insurance Companies, who are authorized to receive applications for insurance, are as follows:

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